

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11225 201548Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6257

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11225

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, EG

SUBJ: VISIT OF OMB TEAM

REF: (A) CAIRO 11042 (B) CAIRO 11178

1. VISIT OF OMB TEAM (ANDERS AND DUSAULT) TO CAIRO AUGUST 15-19 WAS, WE BELIEVE, A SUCCESS IN TERMS OF U.S. INTERESTS AND OMB DESIRE TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROBLEMS INVOLVED WITH ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT.

2. IN ADDITION TO ITS SCHEDULED MEETINGS (MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, ECONOMY, FINANCE, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, AND INVESTMENTS AUTHORITY), TEAM ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITES FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN AND FOREIGN BANKERS AND BUSINESSMEN AS WELL AS EMBASSY, USAID AND USIS (AS REQUESTED BY ASST. SECRETARY RICHARDSON, USIS BRIEFING INCLUDED CU PROGRAMS). WHILE VISIT WAS RELATIVELY SHORT, FACT THAT TEAM WAS ALREADY WELL INFORMED ON GENERAL ISSUES, AND WILLINGNESS OF EGYPTIANS TO SPEAK FRANKLY AND OPENLY, PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN THE FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE AND "FEEL" THAT WAS EVIDENTLY ONE OF PRIMARY PURPOSES BEHIND TRIP.

3. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT BOTH SANDERS AND DUSAULT HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH MAGNITUDE

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11225 201548Z

AND CAUSES OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND

A CLEARER VIEW OF THEIR COMPLEX NATURE. THEN
APPEAR TO SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS AND RECOGNIZE THE
HEAVILY POLITICAL NATURE OF THE UNDERTAKING,
ALTHOUGH THEY ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER OUR ABILITY
TO MAINTAIN PRESENT LEVELS FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD
OF TIME.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL PERHAPS WISH TO OBTAIN
FIRST-HAND READING WHEN TEAM RETURNS TO WASHINGTON.
VISITS TO DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND TEL AVIV FOLLOWING
CAIRO STOP-OVER MAY TEND TO ALTER THEIR PERSPECTIVES,
BUT IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE A REPORT
OF THEIR OVERALL IMPRESSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
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